

DUNHAM ROAD UNITARIAN CHAPEL ALTRINCHAM



Founded 1814
Built 1872

November 2020



Minister: Rev Danny Crosby

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Sale

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Sunday Worship at 11.30 am

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Charity Number 230482

FROM THE MINISTER

You may recall that a few years ago I was invited to participate in a “Men’s Health Forum” at Parliament. It was hosted by Baroness Floella Benjamin. (See photographs on page 8) Floella must be perhaps the most genuinely wonderful human being I have ever met. Christine Anstey, a member at Dunham Road, told me that she was on “Desert Island Discs” on Friday 16th October. I listened to her wonderful life story. What was clear was the deep love and care within her, exemplified by her life. She spoke of her struggles as a black immigrant growing up the 1950’s and 60’s and how she worked hard to develop her career. She has been a campaigner for so many groups of people. She also spoke about being appointed the Chancellor of the University of Exeter and how instead of shaking hands with graduates, she breaks tradition and hugs every single one. As someone who has received one of those hugs, I have never known a more loving one. Floella is one of those special people who lives by and through love and I believe is a wonderful example of what we can be if we live by and through love.

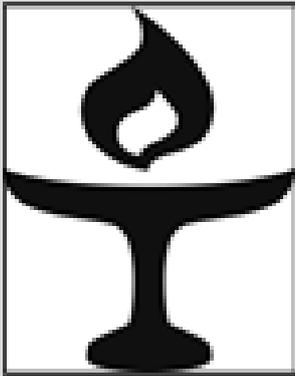


Floella came to fame as a children’s TV presenter on “Playschool”. That Friday night, Sue and I watched a wonderful film “A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood”. It tells the story of a cynical journalist going to interview the much loved American children’s television icon Fred Rogers. It is a beautiful film about reconciliation and transformation, as the cynical journalist Lloyd Vogel is transformed by the presence and love exemplified in the life of Rogers. He is reconciled with his own father who is dying and who abandoned him and his sisters in their childhood. At one point in the film it is suggested that Rogers could be seen as some kind of saint. Rogers’ wife though, disputes this, and says if he was a saint then no one could aspire to live a life like his.

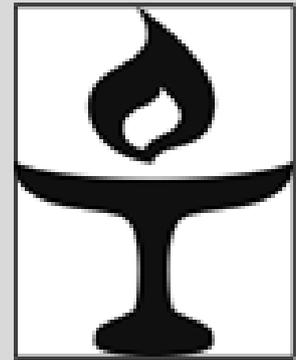
Rogers shows his vulnerability and also talks of his own challenges as a parent. It would be difficult to be the child of such a person, just as it would to be the child of Floella too. As it is difficult for any of us to live up to any other ideal. That though, does not mean that we should not be true. The wonderful thing about these great examples is that they were very human, just like you and I. That does not mean that we cannot aspire to be like them.

I wonder who your heroes were, either as children and or adults?. Who are the people who have or who still inspire you?. Do you see them as humans or as saints? Perhaps this is something to ponder on and perhaps continue to aspire to, in this time of struggle and need.

Love and respect Danny



DUNHAM ROAD
UNITARIAN
CHAPEL



November 2020

Let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness an
overflowing stream. *Amos 5: 24.*

There is nothing more tragic in all this world,
than to know right and not do it.

Martin Luther King, Jr

SUNDAY STEWARDS IN NOVEMBER 2020

1st, Aled Jones. 8th, Nigel Johnson. 15th, Aled Jones. 22nd,
Nigel Johnson. 29th, Aled Jones.

Recent 100 Club Winners

**These monthly prizes have been
postponed until we all meet again.
Be assured this draw will
recommence**

THE MINISTER'S REST DAY IS FRIDAY

Please remember that Rev Danny Crosby has a day off every week and that day is Friday. Members of the congregation are asked to respect this; everyone is entitled to a period of rest away from the daily chores of a job. So unless it is absolutely necessary, the congregation is asked not to contact him on his day off.

Altrincham Unitarians 3 November 2020

Events in November 2020

All these events are by Zoom and the Zoom Meeting ID is
841 9082 8195 No password required

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 1 | Sun | Zoom Sunday Worship at 11.30 am in the chapel led by Rev Danny Crosby. |
| 4 | Wed | Zoom “Living the Questions/Our Common Search for Meaning”: “Family, friendship, relationship and community in a time of physical distance.” A philosophical and spiritual conversation group at 7pm led by Rev Danny Crosby. |
| 5 | Thur | Zoom “Consolation, sorrow and joy”. A poetry evening at 7 pm. |
| 8 | Sun | Zoom Remembrance Sunday Worship in the Chapel at 11.30 am led by Reve Danny Crosby. |
| 15 | Sun | Zoom Sunday Worship in the chapel at 11.30 am led by Geoff Levermore of Norcliffe Chapel, Styal. |
| 16 | Mon | Zoom “Colours of Grief. Our shared Experience of Love and Loss” at 7pm. |
| 17 | Tue | Zoom Meeting of Altrincham Interfaith Group. The Alf Keeling Memorial Lecture entitled: “ Interfaith: Connection and Inclusion for the Common Good ”. By The Very Reverend Rogers Govender (Dean of Manchester Cathedral) at 7.30—9pm. All Welcome.

Please email Carolyn Jones (cjppjones43@gmail.com) or Ann Angel (ann.angel@btconnect.com) for the Zoom ID. |
| 19 | Thurs | Zoom. A poetry evening at 7pm “Consolation, sorrow and joy” |
| 22 | Sun | Zoom Sunday Worship at 11.30 am in the chapel led by Rev Danny Crosby. |
| 26 | Thur | Zoom A Poetry evening at 7pm “Consolation, sorrow and joy.” |
| 29 | Sun | Zoom Sunday Worship at 11.30 am in the chapel led by Rev Danny Crosby. |
| 30 | Mon | Zoom “Colours of Grief. Our shared Experience of Love and Loss” at 7pm. |



CALENDAR

The December /January Calendar will be
Distributed in the week commencing
Monday 30th November

Save our Sunday Flowers!

Since the congregation returned to Sunday Worship in the Chapel on the 2nd of August, our faithful and dedicated flower organiser, Jenny Sykes, has been providing lovely flowers every week to enhance our worship. However, the Flower Fund is now practically empty. So, dear fellow congregants and friends, I am asking you to make contributions to the Flower Fund as a matter of urgency. Now is the time to be generous, and of course your contributions will be acknowledged in the Calendar. If you would like your flower gift to be dedicated to a family member or friend, this too can be acknowledged in the Calendar – just inform the Editor or Jenny herself.

There are several ways for you to do this: you could make out a cheque to Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel and give it to Aled Jones, the Minister, or to Frank Draine, making clear on the envelope that it is for flowers. You could also give cash, and place it in the collection in an envelope or deal with it as suggested above. All the gifts will be transferred to Jenny Sykes.

Your donations will all be much appreciated - thank you in advance.



Aled Jones Editor

Message from Reverend Danny Crosby

Dear Friends

I mentioned on Sunday 25 October, that due to the current tier three restrictions and the likelihood that things will not change for some time, I was thinking that we need to find ways to offer support and social connection and entertainment.

Therefore, I am asking for folk to come up with ideas. I am also thinking of things that we can do over the Advent and Christmas season. We have the Zoom facility, but not everyone can use zoom. I am just asking for suggestions and thoughts at this time. It is going to be a long winter, so we need to find ways to take care of our spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs.

Best wishes DANNY

(Copy of an email message sent out on Monday 26th October 2020).

• NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- The minister will be on Annual leave from Monday 9th November to Sunday 15th November. Also, the Minister will be attending his Ministerial Fellowship meeting between Monday to Wednesday 2-4 November, but because of Covid 19, this will be a virtual meeting hosted by Zoom, as was the similar fellowship held in the spring. The service on Sunday 15th November will be taken by Geoff Levermore of Norcliffe Chapel, Styal.
- The Nightingale Fighting Fund was set up in mid-Spring 2020 by David Warhurst to keep the centre financially viable following the Covid lockdown. So far the fund has collected just over £26,000. The chapel donated £100 to the fund. Marion Baker, the chairperson of the management committee, has written to thank the congregation and she is optimistic. She says 'we are hopeful that in spite of the Covid challenge ahead, we will be receiving guests sometime again in 2021'.
- The chapel committee is grateful to the executive committee of the Manchester District Association for the financial help it has given to the 13 member congregations within the district. In addition to the grants of £4000 already received it will give the chapel a further grant of £6500, in order to make up the financial shortfall due to the loss of our rentals income and the fall in the Sunday collection etc. We have already thanked the MDA for its generosity.

The Refurbishment of the Chapel House

The work is making steady progress. The major structural work is now complete. The electrical work, the gas fittings and the plastering are all nearing completion. Shortly, the new hard wood double glazing windows will be installed. Fitting out the bathroom and the kitchen will then follow.

Filling the Vacancies for Chapel Officers

In the October Calendar, requests were made for members to volunteer to take on some of the duties presently performed by Aled Jones, Chapel Secretary. I am glad to report that three people have come forward to take on the following tasks:

- a. Helen Copley will become the Membership Secretary. She will also continue to be the website organiser for our new chapel website (See page 10).
- b. Andrea Cameron will be the new lettings secretary. She will be assisted by our Chapel Treasurer, Asama Jabeen, who will continue to administer the finances.
- c. Helen Redwood will become the Buildings Warden, after a period of getting familiar with the buildings.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take over the general duties of chapel secretary.

Thanks go to the three volunteers, and also to Annette Percy who will be the new Newsletter (Calendar) editor in January 2021.

The titles of the October services were as follows:

Sunday 4 October: 'Perseverance in times of trouble'. (*Lockdown, faith, hope and love in time of stress*).

Sunday 11 October: 'Love is the way: Out of one'. (*Spiritual life is about human connections*).

Sunday 18 October: 'Conversation, the nature of reality.' (*Modern universal communication sometimes can be difficult in Lockdown*).

Sunday 25 October: 'Floella Benjamin and Mr Rogers': Heroes and Inspirations. (*Baroness Benjamin, a personal hero and searching for inspiration*). See Photographs on page 8.



September 2017. The recently slimmed-down minister with Baroness Benjamin at the Houses of Parliament



Baroness Benjamin as Chancellor of the University of Exeter

THIS MONTH'S MODERN QUOTATION

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it.”

STEVE JOBS (1955-2011)

Steve Jobs was born to two University of Wisconsin graduate students who gave him up for adoption soon after his birth. He was brought up by his adoptive parents in the San Francisco bay area . He had an undistinguished school career and left college after one term.

He eventually became industrial designer,

business magnate and media proprietor. He is widely recognised as being one of the pioneers of the personal computer revolution of the 1970-80's era, a movement that has revolutionised the global communications.

The photograph shows Jobs dressed in his typical working uniform and holding up one of the devices he designed and marketed by one of his many companies.

In his early years, he co-worked with Steve Wozniak another pioneer and co-founder of the Apple computers in 1976. As is typical of many of the early personal computer developers the initial work was carried out in a domestic garage.

Jobs was forced out of Apple computers by his fellow directors. He then founded a another company called Next and a graphic design company called Pixar. Eventually he re-joined Apple 12 years later, and became its CEO and was responsible for the design and marketing of many of the i-devices eventually producing the Macintosh, i-phone, i-pod and the i-phone telephones, that are now globally ubiquitous. In 2005 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, but initially refused surgery ,turning to alternative medical therapy. He was probably influenced by the Buddhist ideas he developed during a visit to an Indian ashram as young man in 1974. He died in 2011.





We love **Jesus**. We love **Buddha** too. And **Muhammad** and **Krishna** and **Moses** and **Guru Nanak** and **Julian of Norwich**. And lots of other folks.

We are **Unitarians**.

Welcome to the Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel, Altrincham.



At long last we have a modern chapel website!

The members of the chapel committee have been aware for some years that the chapel website needed a fresh look and to be one that could be updated frequently and easily. We thank Andrea Cameron, who has considerable experience of publicity and public relations matters, for bringing this about by working with colleagues from her previous company (Cameron /Wells)

The new website can be found at

www.Altrinchamunitarians.org.uk

Please have a look.

Helen Copley will ensure that it is regularly updated with current chapel events and activities.



News From Urmston

Eric Jackson, Editor of the Queens Road Church newsletter, now lives in North Wales and he writes as follows:



- We have a little news from Queens Road, sadly little of it good.
- As it is some months since we were able to print a calendar, several people have been unwell during this time, however we hold them in our thoughts:
- David and Beryl Coyle who lost their son Jamie earlier in the year, Margaret Darbyshire who not only lost husband Alan, but is now seriously ill herself. Betty Bloor who continues to be unwell is unable to join us in worship, and Stella Pritchard, who currently also cannot join us.
- Melissa Brown has contracted Covid 19. As Melissa is recovering, she has agreed to donate blood plasma as part of the investigation into the immunological response of recovering patients and the quest for a way forward to defeat this pandemic.

Kind regards Eric Jackson

“The Portrait of the Artist as a Nan”

Members and readers are aware that one of the more recent initiatives of our minister is the Zoom Poetry Session entitled “Consolation, sorrow and joy”. To some extent this was stimulated by the friendship between him and local Altrincham poet Oliver Lomax.

On Thursday 1 October the launch of Oliver Lomax ‘s new book of poems took place in the Chapel. The book entitled “The Portrait of the Artist as a Nan” was launched by a Zoom event and this was a great success.. The production of the book was in conjunction with AGE CONCERN. In the meantime the regular Zoom poetry sessions continue.

The details of the November sessions are listed on page 4of this calendar.

The Editor

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Lettings Secretary	Aled Jones	0161 445 6935
Letting Treasurer	Asama Jabeen	0161 927 3123
Organist	Margaret Williams	0161 437 3945
Flower Secretary	Jenny Sykes	0161 928 0731
Coffee Rota	Helen Copley	0161 928 3295
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Gwyneth Roper	0161 941 4794

Maintaining a Unitarian presence in Altrincham

Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel is open to all who
wish to worship with an open mind.

The Chapel welcomes new members - please
see the Minister or Chapel Secretary or read our
leaflet for inquirers and would-be members.